

The Garden.

THE SQUASH VINE BORER.

The moth may lay 212 eggs. They hatch in 6 to 15 days and the larvae



or borers attain full growth in 4 to 6 weeks. The moths fly from hill to hill, leaving an egg in each. The borer, after destroying the usefulness of the plant, enters the ground 1 or 2 in and forms a cocoon in which it transforms to pupa. Never plant squashes on the same ground in successive years. Plant as early as possible, a few hills of early squashes to serve as traps. Harrow lightly infested squash field in the fall so as to bring the cocoons to the surface. Then plow 6 in deep in spring. When the vines are of good size, cover part of them with earth so that secondary roots will be sent out. Vines badly infested should be taken up at once and burned. Cut out the borers and kill.

Use Commercial Fertilizers broadcast for vegetables. A good way is to sow them on the soil after the first harrowing in order that the later harrowings may thoroughly mix them with the surface soil. In certain special cases, as with melons, it is regarded better to sow at least a part of the fertilizer in the hill, but I am not in favor of manuring in the hill only. The roots of all crops extend a considerable distance from the place where the seed is planted, and as a rule it is certainly better to distribute the fertilizer at a considerable distance from the center of the root system. With some very soluble fertilizers, as nitrate of soda, it is best to make successive sowings broadcast at intervals during the growing period.—[Prof. E. S. Goff, Wis. Exp. Sta.]

Edible Podded Peas—It is said variety is the spice of life. A new dish that makes everyone ask "What is it?" is the delight of every cook. The edible podded pea will make a surprise at most tables. Why it is so little known I cannot tell, for it is highly esteemed by all who have used it so far as I know. The first time I saw it growing I took it for sweet peas. They grew at the doorway and were covered with pretty purple blossoms and were trained with as much care as if they were in a flower garden. But I discovered my mistake when I saw the housewife gathering a mess for dinner. The pods are broken and cooked like string beans and if used while young are very tender and sweet, so much so that the whole class are called sugar peas, and I have known some families when once they have used them to discard all other kinds of peas. There are two varieties, the dwarf and tall. The pods are rather small, but those of the tall variety are larger than those of the dwarf. The time of planting and gathering and methods of cultivation correspond to those of the ordinary pea. Let the farmer who gives the sugar pea a trial. [W. L. Anderson, Montgomery Co., Ind.]

Quality in Garden Crops—I often ask farmers why they don't raise such and such vegetables in their gardens. They usually reply, "My folks don't like them." Yet I sell abundance of the same articles to the people in town. I first thought town people had different tastes from country people. I was mistaken. The secret is that town people get a better quality. I have seen farmers' wives go out and get rhubarb that grew in grass and poor soil. Little green stems, tough and sour were worked into pies. If I had to choose between it and washed pie I would hesitate. Let that farmer raise stalks almost as thick as his wrist, red and little, so that if he were to strike it over a board it would snap off like a stick of candy and look as pretty. Take that and some juice made by boiling cherry leaves and work them into it and see if his family don't like it. Again, I have seen asparagus raised under the same conditions. Little, tough, green, pipe stem sized stalks cooked and the dish nicknamed asparagus.

I pity the taste of the man who likes it. But take great, white, brittle, fat stems that snap off like icicles and when well cooked an epicure would like them. I have seen lettuce sown in beds that came up thick as grass, green as grass and tough as dock. When the leaves get an inch or two long they are cut and served on the table. Such stuff is not fit for a cow. Let the farmer dig up some of the best of these plants and set them in rich ground 6 in apart and take good care of them until they are big as half gallon cups and so brittle and crisp that they fall to pieces when you touch them—that is lettuce. If I were to offer on the market such stuff as the farmer's wife often puts on his table I could not hold my patronage a week. Town people don't like it any more than the farmer's family. Why can't the farmer have the good things as well as town people.—[W. L. Anderson, Montgomery Co., Ind.]

Harden Tomato Plants by exposure before finally placing them in the field and in transplanting leave a good ball of dirt around the roots. Water well before transplanting, but not afterward, and plant in the heat of the day rather than in the morning or the evening. Plants raised under these conditions will show no appreciable check in their growth. After this, the straight road to success lies in constant surface cultivation to conserve moisture and prevent chilling of the soil about the roots during cool nights.—[Maj. Shepard, Ont.]

Improved Cuban Queen Watermelon—The old Cuban Queen watermelon has been recognized as the leading shipping and commercial melon of the country. A sport of this melon far supercedes the old Cuban Queen. The new melon is a third larger than the old variety and for sweetness and delicious flavor it stands unrivaled. Single vines perfect 6 to 8 melons, averaging in weight from 75 to 120 lbs. Seeds are brown. The flesh is crimson red, melting and sugary. Vines are rampant, vigorous and very healthy.—[S. L. Watkins, El Dorado Co., Cal.]

Three Early Crops—Onions will stand frost and are frequently put out in March. If the weather moderates, but April is more favorable. The ground cannot be too rich, and for a small plot sets are used. The ground should be deep, plenty of well-rotted manure applied, and the sets kept free from grass and weeds until the crop gets well under way. Asparagus and rhubarb should now receive a heavy coating of manure, so that the liquid portions may be carried down by the rains. If this is delayed too long the plants may not be benefited by the manure. Something depends upon the severity of the winter from now until April, but in this section there are warm periods when the ground can be worked. After the winter is over, but before spring comes in with warm weather, considerable work can be done, and early peas should not be overlooked, as they are hardy and can stand a certain amount of exposure. Asparagus usually makes its appearance at any time during April or May, according to the season, and there is now but a short period of time to attend to the bed.

Starting Plants in the House—For a small garden a few early plants may be started in the house in shallow boxes or large pots. Fill them with rich, light soil and sow the seed thinly. After the plants are out of the seedbed, transplant to other boxes or pots. Keep the box in a warm spot, and if the seed is very fine, such for instance as flower seeds, or tobacco, the box or pot should be covered with a glass to prevent the earth from drying out very rapidly. The watering should be carefully done, otherwise the fine seed will be washed out. A wet paper placed on top of the soil will afford moisture enough for the germination of fine seed. If pots are used, it is well to sink them to the rim in a box of moss, which will prevent the moisture from drying out of the earth in the pot.

Of Red Tomatoes, the Stone has proved to be more free of rot in our garden. Not many years but that some fruit on the early vines and some of the Imperial rotted; last year almost all of them did. Early sorts seem to be more likely to crack and will not hang on the vine long and remain in

good condition. We have never been troubled with the small preserving sorts nor with the large yellow tomatoes rotting, but the large, yellow fruit will not bear marketing as well as the red sorts. In marketing tomatoes one must have them as early as possible and deliver free from dust and dirt, without a single cracked fruit if they wish to get good profits. Tomatoes are very easy vegetables to look mussy and are then far from appetizing. To keep trade, one should have some smooth, large, yellow fruit to mix with the red, as the colors are very pretty together. Also several sorts of the preserving kinds.—[Emma Clearwaters, Ind.]

Burning Beds with Gasoline—This is being practiced all over the blue grass region of Ky and in the Ohio valley with good results. The bed is well dug and raked nearly smooth enough for seeding, gasoline is poured over the surface from a sprinkling can with a fine rose at the rate of a gallon to 40 or 50 square feet. If dry trash, brush or grapevine trimmings are to be had these are scattered over the bed and the whole fired, if not the gasoline is set on fire 10 to 20 minutes after being applied. It will burn fiercely for several minutes and kills weed seed quite as well as the old plan of burning with wood or heavy brush. Kerosene is sometimes used, applying at the same rate as the gasoline and then covering a few inches with straw before firing. These oils promise to supersede all other methods of burning.—[C. D. Lyon, Brown Co., O.]

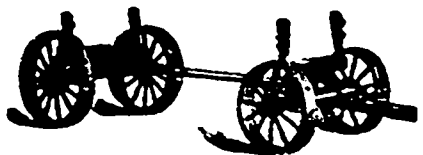
To Secure a Good Crop of Vegetables, three things are necessary: A suitable soil, pure seed and clean culture. To this may be added, as equally important, an abundant supply of good barnyard manure, supplemented, when this runs short, by artificial fertilizers. The exposure for a vegetable garden should be south or southeast. The soil should be naturally rich and friable, a sandy loam being among the best. If the soil is stiff, it should be gradually mellowed by the free use of barnyard manure, plowing under green crops, or if convenient by the addition of sand. If wet, it should be underdrained, preferably by tile.

I am convinced that every time a tomato plant is transplanted it loses to some extent its productivity.—[S. H. Mitchell, Ont.]

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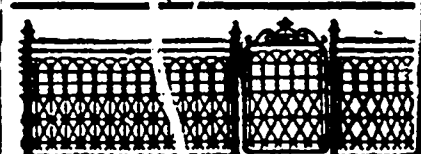
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